

12 August 1960

Remarks by Admiral Herbert G. Hopwood
Commander in Chief, U. S. Pacific Fleet
Saipan Legislature

I can't tell you how pleased I was to receive the invitation to join you in this meeting today. I always enjoy an opportunity to converse with the people here on Saipan, but it is more than that. Today is a significant day for Saipan. This morning we began the work on the Dr. Torres Hospital and at noon the business leaders of the community have broken bread with the High Commissioner of the Trust Territory while discussing commercial and political affairs.

Why does that make this a significant day? Because both events are signs of the progress which characterizes Saipan today. This island is moving forward in many ways, a new hospital, new schools, new businesses, and perhaps most important, a renewed drive by the people to learn, to do, to move ahead.

Nothing could please me more as you High Commissioner and your friend. These are the signs of a vigorous community spirit and energetic individual attainment.

This group here demonstrates what I mean very well. You each have become successful businessmen and leaders of the political and commercial community on Saipan by individual initiative. Each of you built your business and your position through hard work and careful effort. Now, however, you have recognized your responsibility to the welfare of the island as a whole. Your businesses and political groups are young, and yet already you are a key part of the community drive for self improvement.

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Americans, devoted firmly as they are to the principles of free enterprise, have long believed that continued growth of any area is dependent upon continued development in a competitive economy. We hold that as business and industry develop and expand the entire society benefits from new products, increased employment and greater revenues. I believe that our faith in this system is more than justified by what we have accomplished in the relatively short period of our national existence. We believe that what has been so successful for us can be beneficial to others also. That is why so many Americans are viewing your work with great interest. You are the leaders and businessmen of Saipan, therefore you are the representatives of free enterprise and accomplishment. You play an important role in good government and free enterprise to solve the needs of the people of this island.

That's the key to the effectiveness of modern free enterprise. It cannot function solely to provide profit to the proprietor or gain to the entrepreneur. It must provide for the needs of the community as a whole.

To fulfill the requirements of this great responsibility then, the man of commerce must be "on his toes," he must be flexible. The economy here on Saipan, in the United States, or anywhere in the world where free enterprise exists, must continue to provide the goods and services demanded by the consumer. This means that it must develop new products and improved industry. As the demand for one item decreases, another must take its place. New employment must be provided for those once concerned with any out dated industry.

As industry grows, increased employment and advancement opportunity must be made available to properly educated and trained personnel. This will provide incentive to young people to acquire more training, and just as important, encourage them to remain here as contributing members of their home community rather than seeking employment elsewhere. In remaining they become assets to both the commercial and intellectual activities of Saipan.

Now I'm not trying to sell you on the benefits of free enterprise or capitalism -- and capitalism is a perfectly good term for use here in spite of the meaning the communists have tried to give it. I don't need to sell you. You have sold yourselves, you have selected free enterprise as the method by which this community is going to help itself. You are not planning to become capitalists -- you are capitalists.

I am discussing these matters with you now on this day of progress merely to refresh in your minds the marvelous things which you can do and the heavy responsibilities you have accepted.

I wanted to do so because this will be my last meeting with you as your High Commissioner. I am keenly aware that even though my tenure is completed at the end of this month these problems and responsibilities will be always part of your lives. My work with you and your fellow citizens in the past indicates that you will discharge your duties well.

On behalf of the people of the United States, and especially on behalf of the United States Navy, I can assure you that you will continue to have a sympathetic and stable government; a government aware of your problems and the methods you have selected to solve them; a government which understands free enterprise; a government devoted to the dignity of the individual; a government which is anxious to help you to help yourselves.

The combination of such a government and the Saipan community spirit will continue to bring growth and happiness to this island and her wonderful people. Even though I will soon end my official connection here, I shall watch your work with great interest and I shall find cause for pride in the accomplishments of my loyal friends, the people of Saipan.

Now it is time to say farewell. Mrs. Hopwood joins me in thanking you and the other people of this island for the marvelous hospitality extended to us on each of our all too infrequent visits. Experience tells me that such hospitality and generosity is only found among true friends. It was as your friend that I served as High Commissioner, and it is as a true, sincere friend I say goodbye.

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